

# 2007 State Development Plan

## Shaping New Hampshire's Future

### Vision, Goals, and Strategies

#### Vision

To support New Hampshire's prosperity and unique quality of life we must maintain the essential character of our state's natural and built environment through innovative approaches to planning, preservation and development at the state, regional and local level.

#### Goals and Strategies

1. **Foster** the traditional character of New Hampshire downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging mixed-use development that is walkable, sustainable and conducive to community life.
  1. Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns that incorporates a mix of uses to efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure.
  2. Promote good local planning.
  3. Require state agencies to make decisions about the locations of their facilities as a reflection of smart growth principles and consistent with local planning and zoning.
  4. Support historic and traditional centers.
  5. Design transportation solutions in traditional municipal centers and downtowns to fit the context and needs of the community.
2. **Protect** and preserve New Hampshire's land and water resources including farms, forestlands, wildlife habitats, water resources, air quality, and other critical environmental areas.
  1. Manage water use and minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff and pollution on New Hampshire's surface waters and ground water, particularly the availability and quality of drinking water supplies and aquatic biological communities.
  2. Protect the state's valuable natural land and air resources that are a vital component of the state's quality of life and economy.
  3. Conserve statewide critical habitats and species in need of protection.
  4. Continue statewide, regional, and local conservation land acquisition in coordination with other important social goals such as provision of affordable housing.

5. Make land use decisions that account for long-term incremental and regional impacts of development on natural resources.
3. **Seek** innovative approaches in transportation to address safety, diverse geographic needs, accessibility for people of all ages, preservation of environmental quality, and alternatives that reduce energy consumption.
  1. Formalize the connection between land use and transportation planning at the state, regional, and local level.
  2. Improve statewide public transportation services and reduce transportation related energy consumption.
  3. Increase street connectivity to preserve state highway capacity and enhance walkability within communities.
  4. Create and institutionalize a corridor-based transportation planning approach to be integrated at the state, regional, and local level
  5. Support the state's economy through transportation network improvements that will facilitate the movement of employees, goods, and services while preserving traditional landscapes and community centers.
4. **Promote** stewardship of New Hampshire's resources for recreation and other activities that contribute to the health and quality of life for citizens and visitors in New Hampshire.
  1. Ensure that the quality and quantity of the natural resource base is maintained or enhanced as recreation pressures increase.
  2. Ensure that a variety of recreational opportunities are provided, even as competing pressures and potential conflicts may arise between tourist and resident oriented facilities or when multiple activities compete for the same resources.
  3. Wisely use financial and human resources (e.g. volunteers, partnerships, youth programs, etc.) to meet a wide range of recreational needs.
  4. Promote growth and development patterns that encourage local recreational opportunities and preserve appropriate undeveloped lands for future recreational use.
  5. Promote the health and wellness benefits gained from improving recreational opportunities and bicycle -pedestrian linkages in communities.
5. **Advance** state, regional, and local partnerships that create economic opportunities in a manner consistent with community master plans.
  1. Build stronger, self-sustaining local economies.
  2. Ensure that all New Hampshire households have the opportunity to earn a living wage.

3. Provide grants, technical assistance, and other opportunities designed to promote and enhance the state's economy and quality of life.
  4. Examine the direct impact of economic growth on affordable housing availability.
  5. Work to sustain and expand existing industries while also responding to new economic opportunities.
6. **Preserve** New Hampshire's historic and cultural resources that are an integral part of the state's quality of life, economy, and visual character.
1. Increase survey and recognition efforts to identify important cultural and historical resources.
  2. Promote the development of a "preservation ethic" to be integrated into decision-making on a state, regional, and local level.
  3. Create preservation opportunities through the partnership of local government, regional and state agencies, non-profit agencies, and private industry.
  4. Provide necessary funding and incentives to encourage and support preservation efforts.
  5. Plan for continued economic growth in New Hampshire that capitalizes on the special qualities of our village squares, downtowns, and historic resources.
7. **Create** a range of quality housing opportunities and choices for people of all income levels to ensure that communities maintain a diverse population.
1. Provide incentives, guidance, and support to local governments to ensure that state-delegated planning and land use regulatory authority is used to promote a balanced and adequate supply of housing for all New Hampshire citizens.
  2. Treat housing as an integral part of the state's economic infrastructure.
  3. Establish a long-term commitment to ensuring that the state achieves and maintains a healthy housing infrastructure to support ongoing economic growth and prosperity.
  4. Encourage decisions that reduce the energy costs occasioned by the type, construction, distribution, and commuting requirements of housing.
  5. Encourage municipalities to work collaboratively to support regional affordable housing needs, consistent with the housing needs assessments prepared by regional planning commissions.
8. **Develop** policies and actions necessary to assure safe and reliable utility services to better account for New Hampshire's changing demographics, and promote energy efficiency.
1. Encourage demand reduction through energy efficient development while pursuing renewable energy production and purchasing.

2. Promote a diverse and affordable range of heating fuel options for NH residents and businesses.
  3. Develop and provide for maintenance and upgrades of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management systems that protect natural resources and are compatible with the principles of smart growth.
  4. Promote affordable access to the highest quality broadband and telecommunication services available throughout the state for all residents, businesses, and government entities.
  5. Establish opportunities to create community water and septage systems as well as regional connections between independent water and sewer systems.
9. **Link** state investments in public facilities in a manner that fosters community vitality and efficient use of resources and energy.
1. Create an asset management structure to ensure the efficient utilization of all state-owned buildings and property.
  2. Promote the consolidation of facilities to ensure that as many different State office functions are occurring in one place; “one-stop shopping.”
  3. Promote energy efficiency through state building retrofits, state agency vehicles, maintenance, energy efficiency, cost of procurement practices, and use of indigenous, renewable energy sources.
  4. Encourage the redevelopment or reuse of existing structures to the extent that their energy and safety upgrades yield a favorable life cycle cost comparison with new construction.
  5. Promote public facility sharing including solid waste, regional schools, and emergency services between municipalities.
10. **Reduce** the potential impact of natural hazards on the State’s citizens and guests, critical support services and facilities, infrastructure, historic resources, economy, and natural resources.
1. Assess the risks to the state from flooding, winter storms, earthquakes and other natural hazards
  2. Reduce the potential impact of natural disasters on the state’s critical support services and facilities.
  3. Reduce the potential impact of natural disasters on New Hampshire’s built environment including its infrastructure, historic resources, and those features essential to the economy.
  4. Protect the state’s natural resources and environment from the potential impact of natural disasters.
  5. Promote future development that considers, and avoids or mitigates, potential natural hazards.